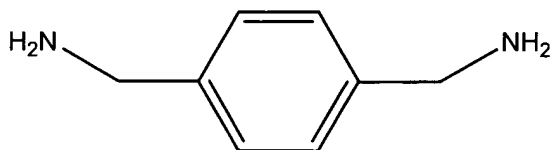


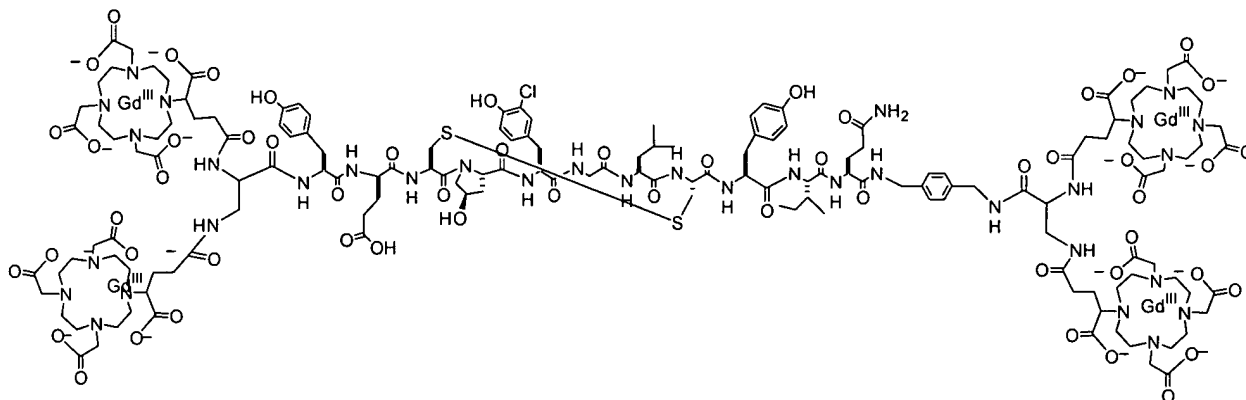
REMARKS

Claims 1-77 are pending. Applicants have amended the specification to recite priority and related application information. Applicants have also herein amended claim 2 and cancelled claims 24-26, 34-55, and 66-67. Applicants point out that claims 1-23, 27-33, 56-65, and 68-77 correspond to Restriction Group 2, drawn to a method of making an MRI agent using a peptide and the linker subunit moiety:



, as set forth in the Restriction Requirement mailed on January 22, 2004 in parent case U.S. Ser. No. 10/209,183. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-23, 27-33, 56-65, and 68-77 are pending.

In the event that the Examiner requests, as in the parent case, that Applicants elect a species within the elected group under 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicants elect the species of **Structure 36**, shown below:



Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11, 13-15, 17, 19-22, 27, 29-33, 56-65, 68, and 70-76 are drawn to the elected species.

For examination purposes, as in the parent case, Applicants also refer the Examiner to a schematic of Structure 36, attached hereto, depicting its components. Structure 36 includes a modified peptide sequence. On the C-terminal side of the modified peptide (i.e., the right-hand side of Structure 36), the modified peptide is conjugated to one linker-subunit moiety, thereby

forming an amide linkage on the C-terminus of the modified peptide. In turn, the remaining amino moiety of the elected linker-subunit (i.e., the amino moiety in the para position) is conjugated to a linker moiety, also via an amide bond. Next, the linker moiety is conjugated via two amide bonds to two metal chelate complexes. The N-terminus of the modified peptide is not conjugated to a linker-subunit. The N-terminus of the modified peptide forms an amide bond with the same linker moiety as shown on the C-terminal side, which in turn is conjugated via two amide bonds to two of the same metal chelate complexes.

Applicants ask that all claims be examined in view of the amendments to the claims. If necessary, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if such would expedite prosecution.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/25/04

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